

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In an information processing system, monitoring organizations embed highly robust information corresponding to the organizations in distributed input information as electronic watermarks by the use of common-electronic-watermark embedding apparatuses. Then, the organizations embed another information by the use of electronic-watermark embedding apparatuses employing electronic-watermark methods unique to the organizations. When a predetermined monitoring organization finds illegitimately copied data on a network, it extracts information embedded by either of the above-described common-electronic-watermark embedding apparatuses, by the use of a common-electronic-watermark extracting apparatus. With this operation, the organization which has performed embedding is identified. The data is sent to the identified organization. The organization extracts various types of embedded information by the use of an extracting apparatus unique to the organization. Therefore, each organization just needs to manage only an electronic-watermark embedding apparatus and an electronic-watermark extracting apparatus employing a method unique to the organization, without having embedding apparatuses and extracting apparatuses employing many methods.

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